

# Columbus's Context Clues



Name \_\_\_\_\_

When reading a novel, you may come across words that you don't understand. A dictionary can be kept on hand to assist, but looking up words in the dictionary takes away from the flow of reading. Another way to determine a word's definition is by using "context clues." Context clues are clues within the text. They can be individual words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs. They are usually located somewhere near the word in question. There are four main kinds of context clues: definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and general context clues.

Below are some words from *Pedro's Journal*. Next to each word is the journal date on which it is found. Locate the word and determine its meaning based on its context clues. Match the word with the letter of its meaning.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| ____ 1. trek (August 7)        | A. a sturdy container for storing liquids |
| ____ 2. fathoms (September 18) | B. rear part of a ship                    |
| ____ 3. mutiny (September 30)  | C. becoming cloudy or gloomy              |
| ____ 4. stern (September 30)   | D. lacking refinement or elegance         |
| ____ 5. shrouds (October 10)   | E. a slow or difficult journey            |
| ____ 6. breakers (October 12)  | F. rebellion against authority            |
| ____ 7. barrier (October 12)   | G. units of length equal to six feet      |
| ____ 8. detained (November 6)  | H. sets of ropes from mast to ship        |
| ____ 9. bleating (November 19) | I. structure which bars passage           |
| ____ 10. rustic (December 13)  | J. delayed                                |
| ____ 11. cask (December 25)    | K. a deserter                             |
| ____ 12. dilemma (December 27) | L. a small battle                         |
| ____ 13. renegade (January 8)  | M. waves that break into foam             |
| ____ 14. skirmish (January 16) | N. sound made by sheep or goats           |
| ____ 15. overcast (February 7) | O. decision requiring unfavorable choices |